

Message Text

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APPROVED BY IATF:LDBROWN

S/S-O:RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO THE HONORABLE DANIEL J EVANS

GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON

OLYMPIA WASHINGTON 98501

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 103824

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT:

RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN THE UNITED STATES

DEAR GOVERNOR EVANS: IN OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION TODAY,
I SAID I WOULD PROVIDE YOU MORE INFORMATION ON WHERE WE ARE
WITH THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE SITUATION. I GREATLY APPRECIATE
YOUR OFFER TO BE HELPFUL.

1. AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGEDY IN VIETNAM THE PRESIDENT HAS
AUTHORIZED THE ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES OF UP TO
130,000 VIETNAMESE CITIZENS. THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE OF
THESE UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE ARE RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
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OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS. THE OTHERS, AS MANY AS 50,000, ARE

THOSE WE CALL HIGH RISK, MEANING THEIR LIVES WOULD BE IN DANGER IF THEY HAD REMAINED IN VIETNAM.

2. IN THIS CABLE, I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE YOU A PICTURE OF WHAT WE ARE DOING TO MAKE THE RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE AS HUMANE AND DECENT AS POSSIBLE AND TO AVOID HARDSHIP TO COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY WILL LIVE. IT IS A TASK IN WHICH I HOPE ALL AMERICANS WILL PARTICIPATE.

3. WE CURRENTLY ESTIMATE THAT OVER 100,000 VIETNAMESE HAVE LEFT THEIR COUNTRY TO DATE THROUGH THE AMERICAN AIR AND SEALIFT AND BY THEIR OWN MEANS. NOW THAT WE HAVE BEGUN MOVEMENTS TO RECEPTION CENTERS, WE EXPECT 5,000 A DAY TO ARRIVE IN THE UNITED STATES AT DESIGNATED RECEPTION CENTERS.

4. WE HAVE TWO PROBLEMS: (A) REUNITING VIETNAMESE WITH THEIR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND SPONSORS; (B) FINDING PERMANENT HOMES FOR THE HIGH RISK VIETNAMESE (ESTIMATED 50,000). WE BELIEVE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT WILL BE MINIMAL. THOSE AMERICANS WITH VIETNAMESE DEPENDENTS ARE WIDELY DISPERSED. FOR THOSE COMING WITHOUT SPONSORS, OUR POLICY IS TO SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY EQUITABLY AMONG ALL REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE VIETNAMESE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES ARE PREDOMINANTLY A SKILLED GROUP; MANY HAVE ENGLISH CAPABILITY.

5. RESETTLEMENT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE IN SETTLING REFUGEES FROM ABROAD -- HUNGARIANS AND UGANDAN ASIANS. IN ADDITION THESE AGENCIES IDENTIFY SPONSORS WHO PROVIDE HOUSING, JOBS, COUNSELING AND EDUCATION. MANY AGENCIES REPORT CHARGES WILL NOT BECOME FINANCIAL BURDENS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES BELIEVE ALL REFUGEES WE ARE PRESENTLY PLANNING FOR CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY RESETTLED. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL AVOID RESETTLEMENT IN ECONOMICALLY HARD-HIT AREAS AND WILL NOT CONCENTRATE THE REFUGEES IN SPECIFIC LOCALITIES. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ENGAGED IN RESETTLEMENT EFFORTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

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U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE
MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES
1312 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AMERICAN FUND FOR CZECHOSLOVAK REFUGEES
1709 BROADWAY, ROOM 1316

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE PROGRAM
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 20027

TOLSTOY FOUNDATION, INC.
250 WEST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE
386 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR NATIONALITIES SERVICE
20 WEST 40TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

TRAVELERS AID-INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES
345 EAST 46TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS IN MONEY OR OFFERS OF
RESETTLEMENT
SHOULD BE REFERRED DIRECTLY TO THE AGENCIES CONCERNED.

6. WE HAVE STRONG INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT IN RESETTLEMENT
AND JOB IDENTIFICATION FROM OTHER GROUPS INCLUDING THE
AFL-CIO. WE HAVE BEEN DELUGED WITH OFFERS OF PRIVATE
ASSISTANCE.

7. STRENUOUS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY. FRANCE,
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CANADA AND AUSTRALIA HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL TAKE
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES. THERE ARE LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS
AND COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICA INTERESTED.

8. TO FACILITATE THE HEALTH AND IMMIGRATION ENTRY INTO
THE U.S., WE HAVE SET UP OUR STAGING AREAS IN GUAM AND
WAKE. OUR HEALTH VERIFICATION SYSTEM IS RIGOROUS. THE
ARMY MEDICAL CORPS TOGETHER WITH HEW (PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE -- CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL PHYSICIANS AND OTHER
HEALTH PERSONNEL) ARE STRONGLY REPRESENTED ON GUAM. THE
REFUGEES ARE IN GOOD HEALTH AND POSE NO MORE OF A PROBLEM
TO THE HEALTH OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC THAN THOUSANDS OF
OTHER TRAVELERS WHO ENTER THIS COUNTRY ANNUALLY FROM SOUTH-
EAST ASIA. (OF 29,000 REFUGEES ON APRIL 30 IN GUAM, ONLY
ABOUT 80 HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED DUE TO SUCH CONDITIONS AS

MEASLES, MILD DIARRHEA, MATERNITY AND PNEUMONIA BUT NO SERIOUS DISEASE OR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.) AT THIS TIME, THERE ARE NO UNUSUAL HEALTH PROBLEMS PRESENT AND WE ARE MAINTAINING EXPERT (CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL) SURVEILLANCE. THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THE REFUGEES IS SURPRISINGLY GOOD. FURTHER HEALTH AND CURATIVE TREATMENT AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES WILL TAKE PLACE IN RECEPTION CENTERS. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES WILL BE ALERTED FOR ANY APPROPRIATE FOLLOW UP, SHOULD INDIVIDUAL CASES REQUIRE IT.

9. STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WILL SUFFER NO DIRECT FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND LITTLE INDIRECT HARDSHIP FROM THE INFLUX. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING FROM THE CONGRESS ON AN URGENT BASIS TO PROVIDE: RESETTLEMENT, HEALTH, INCOME MAINTENANCE, AND SOCIAL SERVICE FUNDS TO REIMBURSE 100 OF THE COSTS INCURRED FOR THESE SERVICES. BACK-UP FEDERAL FUNDING AUTHORITY EXISTS FOR ANY RESIDUAL PROBLEMS WHICH INDIVIDUAL CASES MAY PRESENT. HEW IS ALSO PREPARED TO PROVIDE FULL ASSISTANCE FOR DESTITUTE REPATRIATES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AS SOON AS CONGRESS MAKES FUNDS AVAILABLE. ALSO ADDITIONAL MONIES FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCY RESETTLEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT AND RECEPTION CENTER COSTS.

10. THREE RECEPTION CENTERS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED TO RE-UNCLASSIFIED

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CEIVE THOSE ARRIVING -- CAMP PENDLETON (CALIFORNIA), CAMP CHAFFEE (ARKANSAS), EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE (FLORIDA). WE AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ANTICIPATE BEING ABLE TO PROCESS THOSE ARRIVING QUICKLY. SCREENING AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR FAMILIES WHOSE SPONSORS ARE READY TO RECEIVE THEM SHOULD TAKE LESS THAN A WEEK. OTHER FAMILIES SHOULD BE ON THEIR WAY TO NEW HOMES AND JOBS WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME, MANY OF THEM IN A FEW WEEKS.

DEAN BROWN
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND
DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AGENCY
TASK FORCE FOR THE PRESIDENT
KISSINGER

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